

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

However, Applicants note that the Examiner still has not acknowledged Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the next Official Action.

Applicants also acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 1, 6, 8, 9 and 10 contain allowable subject matter (*see* paragraphs 5-7 beginning on page 3 of the Official Action).

Further, Applicants submit that the Examiner has apparently, in the body of the Official Action, mistakenly omitted claim 2 from the list of allowable claims since claim 2 depends from claim 1 (which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable).

Applicants submit that the instant amendment is proper for entry after final rejection. Applicants note that no question of new matter or any new issues are raised by entry of the instant amendment of the claims, and that no new search would be required.

Moreover, Applicants submit that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, or at least in better form for appeal.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner enter the instant amendment, consider the merits of the same, and indicate the allowability of the present application and each of the pending claims.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claim 5 will have been amended, and claims 13 and 14 will have been added. Claims 1, 2 and 5-14 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 are in condition for allowance in their present form, i.e., for reasons discussed supra (see paragraphs 5-7 beginning on page 3 of the Official Action).

Applicants submit that newly added claim 13 generally corresponds to the subject matter of claim 6 (which the Examiner indicated as being allowable) rewritten into independent form (and not including the present amendments to claim 5).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 13, as well as newly-added claim 14 (which generally corresponds to claim 10), are also allowable.

Thus, Applicants submit that, given the Examiner's above discussed indication of allowable subject matter, claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 13 and 14 are allowable in their present form.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by YOKOYAMA et al. (JP 9-321488); and

the Examiner rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over YOKOYAMA in view of JP 64-50711.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, Applicants submit that claim 5 have been amended solely in order to expedite prosecution of the present Application.

In this regard, Applicants submit that YOKOYAMA, alone or with any proper reasoning, does not disclose at least the combination of features generally recited in independent claim 5.

In particular, amended claim 5 generally sets forth a cable/tube installation system including, inter alia, a movable guide member fixedly mounted to the head perpendicularly to the axis of the head; and a semi-circular stationary guide member mounted in parallel with the movable guide member, the movable guide member and the semicircular stationary guide member each comprising a planar surface, wherein the planar surfaces oppositely face each other.

In setting forth the rejections, the Examiner asserts, inter alia, that YOKOYAMA discloses a movable guide member 5 and a semicircular stationary guide member 9 (see paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Official Action).

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Applicants submits that the devices of the applied prior art are very different structurally from the presently claimed invention.

More specifically, Applicants submit that element 9 in YOKOYAMA is apparently positioned about a periphery of element 5 (see, e.g., Figure 1 of YOKOYAMA).

Thus, Applicants submit that YOKOYAMA, alone or with any proper reasoning, does not disclose at least the presently claimed the movable guide member and the

semicircular stationary guide member each comprising a planar surface, wherein the planar surfaces oppositely face each other, as generally recited in amended claim 5.

Accordingly, the rejections of claims 5, 7, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the arguments herein, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 5 and 13 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2, 6-12 and 14 Applicants assert that these claims are allowable on their own merit, as well as because they depend from independent claims 1, 5 and 13 which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

SUMMARY

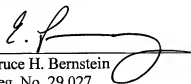
Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an indication to that effect. Applicants have demonstrated the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note the status of the present application as being an after final rejection and with respect to such status believes that there is a clear basis for the entry of the present amendment consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicants note amendments after final are not entered as a matter of right; however, Applicants submit that the present amendment does not raise new issues or the question of new matter. Moreover, the present amendment clearly places the present application in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding the present response or this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Dai YOKOYAMA et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Bernstein', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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